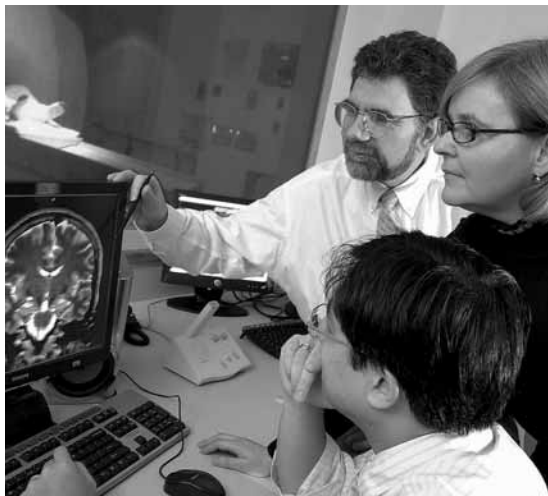


RESEARCH IN B.C.

Funds raised by the Alzheimer Society of B.C. go towards ensuring people impacted by the disease can connect to a community of information, services and support. We also fund research as we continue to search for the causes and the cure.

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. is part of a Canada-wide collaborative called the Alzheimer Society Research program. This program provides funding to researchers across the country, supporting both biomedical and psycho-social research.

More than \$2-million in research grants were awarded through the national program in 2007, and B.C. researchers continue to be among the leaders in meriting these funds. This year's local award recipients include:



Giuseppe Iaria at the University of British Columbia received a postdoctoral award for his research, titled Topographical orientation in patients affected by Mild Cognitive Impairments: A behavioural test as a predictor of Alzheimer Disease.

Kristina Kowalski at the University of Victoria received a doctoral award for her project, The influence of personality and awareness on driving in older drivers with dementia.

Wendy Lindstrom-Forneri of the University of Victoria received a doctoral award for her research, titled Safety Awareness for Elderly Drivers (SAFE): The development and evaluation of an educational intervention on age-related driving issues and safe driving behaviours for older drivers.

Cheryl Wellington at the University of British Columbia for her project, The roles of ABCG1 and ABCG4 on brain lipid homeostasis, behavior, and APP metabolism. Cheryl received some additional funding for her research by receiving the top biomedical score. This additional \$6,500 is through the generous contribution to the operating funds by Mrs. Evelyn Hopkins in memory of her mother, Marie Aube, who passed away after a lengthy journey with Alzheimer's disease.

In Focus

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. is part of a Canada-wide collaborative called the Alzheimer Society Research program.

PUBLIC POLICY: ADDING YOUR VOICE TO THE DIALOGUE

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. is engaged in ongoing dialogue with B.C.'s provincial government, and we actively encourage others to get involved.

Why? Because we believe the government cannot find the best solutions without the active participation of individuals whose lives have been impacted by dementia and that we can improve the lives of people far beyond ourselves.

The experiences and insights of people affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias – those with the disease, their family, friends, and caregivers – can help improve the effectiveness of government policies and actions with regards to our health care system.

To facilitate the educational process, the Law Foundation of B.C. awarded the Alzheimer Society a grant to develop and deliver a new Public Policy Advocacy Workshop. Held in communities around the province, the workshops help people build skills that

will enable them to advocate more effectively and to become more active citizens.

The workshops outline the legislative process, and explain how citizens can participate in that democratic process, as well as offering guidance to help participants effectively articulate their concerns – translating those concerns into credible presentations or documentation.

We can influence government's decisions by monitoring its activities, advocating, lobbying, and by developing strategic partnerships. Through your involvement, we are better able to improve the quality of life for the thousands of British Columbians impacted by dementia.



DOORS OPEN ON NEW CENTRE

When Michael Czorny died of Alzheimer's disease 20 years ago, his daughter Marilyn Stewart made a commitment to do whatever she could to help others touched by the disease.

Marilyn and her husband Chick Stewart were on hand in January 2005 to help toss the first shovels of soil, as construction started on a project that began as a dream.

The Stewarts, the Alzheimer Society of B.C., and the Fraser Health Authority partnered to build and operate the Czorny Alzheimer Centre – dedicated to the memory of Marilyn's parents.

This spring, the Czorny Centre – the first stand-alone residential care facility in B.C. designed specifically to meet the needs of people with Alzheimer's disease – opened its doors after 10 years of planning and building.

The Czorny Centre employs 40 staff, including five registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses, 24 residential care facility attendants, a music therapist, recreation therapist, a social worker, rehabilitation personnel and support staff. The 33,000 square foot centre is now home to 36 residents living in three home-like cottages.

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NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

With the invaluable contribution of volunteers who lend their time and expertise, we are able to expand and improve our services. This year, volunteers have helped us to expand our services and offer to the public new, impressive and innovative programs! We want to thank the members of the following advisory committees.

The **Healthy Brain Advisory** has helped build an important new program in the province that guides people in ways to protect and improve their brain health. We have been able to include: media presentations, public educational events and an evolving Healthy Brain section on our website, www.alzheimerbc.org.

- **Dr. Stephen J. Kiraly**, MD, FRCPC, University of British Columbia and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- **Heather McColl**, Nutritional Consultant, Overwaitea Food Group
- **Dr. Penny MacCourt**, Centre on Aging, University of Victoria
- **Guy Pilch**, Train the Brain Consulting Inc.

The **Memory Bank Volunteers** and Advisory have provided important technical expertise, content input and creative guidance towards the development of Memory Bank.

Memory Bank is an interactive website – a space where all people, especially those impacted by dementia can share their inspiring stories, memories, and ideas. It's an initiative that represents the commitment of the Alzheimer Society of B.C. to honour the life-affirming stories of people living with dementia. You can participate in the Memory Bank by going to www.thememorybank.ca.

- **Steven Burton**, CEO, Burton Software Inc.
- **Habib Chaudhury**, Department of Gerontology, Simon Fraser University, the Centre for Research on Personhood in Dementia, University of British Columbia
- **Livia Mahler**, Venture Capitalist, Greenstone Venture Partners
- **Mark Schneider**, Journalist, NowPublic.com
- **Tricia Selmer**, Professional Artist, Kamloops
- **Jordan Willms**, Accenture
- **Oren Kaufman**, Avanade
- **Colleen Qin**, Accenture
- **Ross Howard Jones**, DonatGroup.com

As we continue to work on the foundations of an outreach and referral program, the **First Link Advisory** has been providing invaluable insight and guidance in these critical early days of developing this important new service.

- **Dr. Duncan Robertson**
- **Shannon Berg**, Director, Community Care Network Integration, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- **Dorrie Ferster**

A very special thank you to the families who voluntarily opened their homes and shared their life story as part of **Beyond Memory**, a documentary created in partnership between the Knowledge Network and the Alzheimer Society of B.C., with a grant from B.C.'s Ministry of Health.

Learn more about the people whose lives are woven together in this inspiring documentary by going to www.knowledgenetwork.ca/beyondmemory

